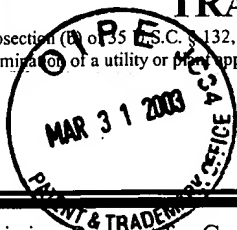


REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.



Application Number	09/773,598
Filing Date	February 2, 2001
First Named Inventor	Fumiyasu HIRAI
Group Art Unit	1646
Name of Examiner	ANDRES, JANET L.
Attorney Docket No.	010105

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar 20, 2000) 1233 Off. Gazette Pat Office (April 11, 2000) which established RCE practice.

1. Submission Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. ☒ **Previously submitted**
- i. ☒ Consider the Request for Reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on February 20, 2003.
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)

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- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Enclosed

- i. ☒ Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other:

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2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of Action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months (period shall not exceed three months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$1,050.00 is enclosed to cover the basic filing fee of \$750.00 and the extension of time fee of \$300.00.
- b. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.
- i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of Time Fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☒ **Other** additional extension of time fee or any other additional fee.

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CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
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PAGE 2

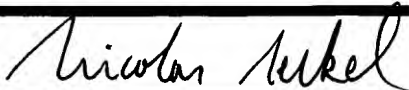
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Attorney Docket No.	010105

SIGNATURE BY APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRE

Name Nicolas E. Seckel

Registration No. (atty/agent) 44,373

Signature



Date: March 31, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, BOX RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name

Signature